

Preface

The Internet connects computers all around the world to support e-document transmission. The World Wide Web makes informative Web pages conveniently available to Internet users everywhere. The aim of the Knowledge Grid is to provide effective knowledge services by connecting globally distributed resources. It goes beyond the scope of the current Web and Grid computing.

The Knowledge Grid is to be a large-scale human-machine environment, where people, machines, society and nature can productively coexist and harmoniously evolve. It stands for the human ideal of a living, wise, systematic, and optimal social environment.

Recognizing the nature, source and principles of knowledge is essential to realizing effective information services and knowledge sharing. The Knowledge Grid bases its methodology on epistemology and ontology as well as on multi-disciplinary approaches.

Established in July 2000, the China Knowledge Grid Research Group (<http://kg.ict.ac.cn>) has been exploring this field. The group has rapidly developed from the initial three members to the current thirty members. It leads the China Semantic Grid Project, a \$US3 million project supported by the National Grand Fundamental Research 973 Program. Developing applications in the areas of e-science and culture heritage protection, the group has evolved into the Knowledge Grid Center (<http://www.knowledgetgrid.net>) that includes research groups and laboratories co-sponsored by universities and institutions in many parts of China.

The research work in this book was supported by the National Grand Fundamental Research 973 Program (2003CB317001), the National

Science Foundation of China (Grants 60273020 and 70271007), and the Innovation Fund of Institute of Computing Technology, Chinese Academy of Sciences.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my wife for her consistent support in every stage of my academic career.

I sincerely thank all the members of the China Knowledge Grid Research Group for their cooperative spirit and diligent work, especially my students Jie Liu, Xiang Li, Xue Chen, Erlin Yao, Yunpeng Xing, Ruixiang Jia, Yunchuan Sun and Weiyu Guo, who provided useful materials and helped check the manuscript.

Finally, I hope this book will help in promoting the development of this promising area.

Hai Zhuge
September 20, 2004